

July 21, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HS*

RE: Windfall Mine Reclamation, Atlas Minerals, M/037/010, San Juan County, Utah

I visited the Windfall Mine site today to observe the reclamation that has been completed this spring of '88. The site was developed by Atlas Minerals, but serious mining was never initiated.

The site is accessed by going south on highway 163 from Moab to a location two miles north of Churchrock and junction of highway 211, then turning east on a BLM road, into East Canyon Valley. Follow this road off highway 163 for approximately 4.6 miles until you see an abandoned blueish green trailer about 1/2 mile from the south side of the road in a small drainage. I parked the vehicle next to the abandoned trailer and walked approximately 1 and 1/2 miles up a winding jeep road until I found the mine site located on the southeast side of the road.

The site of disturbance is very small, less than 1 acre in size. The site has been well graded and contoured to match the surrounding landscape and hydrology.

Some of the species that were seeded last spring have germinated; mostly yellow sweetclover and some of the wheatgrasses. The sweetclover predominates on the site. The vegetation, on this site, will no doubt not reach the 70% standard for several years. However, I am convinced that the vegetation that has been seeded will continue to proliferate on the site.

The site appeared very stable with no obvious erosion rills or gullies. Because of the small size of the disturbance, the commendable regrading work, site stability and the obvious initiation of good reclamation plants, I would recommend that we release Atlas from further responsibility at this site. Pictures will be available in the file.

jb
cc: L. Braxton
4/11